

Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

This application is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/JP2003/008132 filed June 26, 2003.

Page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 19, please rewrite as follows:

In view of the situation as described above, the inventors of the present invention ~~has~~ have made an intensive study, and found that, when a chicken, quail, or other bird is immunized with an antigenic outermembrane protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof as an antigen which has an immunogenicity commonly shared among the ~~sporezoit~~ sporozoite and the merozoite of Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria tenella, and Eimeria maxima associated with coccidiosis in chickens in order to produce an anti-chicken coccidiosis antibody, then the antibody in the egg produced by such bird is administered to a chicken or other bird, the antibody attaches to the ~~sporezoit~~ sporozoite or the merozoite of the protozoan of the Eimeria species to inhibit attachment and invasion of the ~~sporezoit~~ sporozoite or the merozoite to epithelial cell, thereby destroying pathogenicity of the ~~sporezoit~~ sporozoite and the merozoite. The inventors of the present invention have also found that, when the anti-chicken coccidiosis antibody of the present invention is administered in combination with a lactic acid bacterium, excellent prophylactic and therapeutic effects for chicken coccidiosis is achieved through improvement of enteric flora and enhancement of immunity, and through more efficient action of the antibody of the present invention. The inventors also found that, when the anti-chicken coccidiosis antibody of the present invention is administered in combination with an antibody obtained from an egg of a chicken immunized with Clostridium perfringens, excellent prophylactic and therapeutic effects for chicken coccidiosis is attained through prevention of the worsening of the symptoms according to mixed infection by the Clostridium perfringens, and through more efficient action of the antibody of the present invention. The present invention has been completed on such findings.

Page 6, lines 21-27, please rewrite as follows:

(1) An anti-chicken coccidiosis composition for oral administration comprising an antibody obtained from an egg of a chicken immunized with an antigenic outermembrane protein

or an immunogenic fragment thereof having a common immunogenicity shared among ~~sporozoite~~ sporozoite and merozoite of Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria tenella and Eimeria maxima which are associated with chicken coccidiosis.

Page 7, lines 15-19, please rewrite as follows:

The antigen used in the present invention is an antigenic outermembrane protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof which has an immunogenicity commonly shared among ~~sporozoite~~ sporozoite and merozoite of Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria tenella, and Eimeria maxima which are associated with chicken coccidiosis.

Page 7, lines 20-24, please rewrite as follows:

Since this antigen has an immunogenicity commonly found in ~~sporozoite~~ sporozoite and merozoite of Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria tenella, and Eimeria maxima, the product produced by using this antigen is effective irrespective of whether the pathogen is Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria tenella, or Eimeria maxima.

Page 13, line 9 to page 14, line 12, please rewrite as follows:

A 4 week old chicken was infected by orally administering 2×10^6 oocysts of each of Eimeria acervulina NA strain (PE0101), Eimeria tenella NM strain (PE0102), and Eimeria maxima NT strain (PE0103) which are associated with chicken coccidiosis, and autopsy of the chicken was conducted at 4 days after the infection to obtain intestinal tract and its content. Purification of the ~~sporozoite~~ sporozoite and the merozoite was conducted in accordance with Avian Diseases, 39: 538-547, 1995. Soluble outermembrane protein from the merozoite of Eimeria acervulina (NA strain) was subjected to SDS-PAGE to obtain outermembrane protein of 18 to 27 kD (Avian Diseases, 44: 379-389, 2000). A solution containing 0.5 mg/ ml of this outermembrane protein was emulsified with Freund's incomplete adjuvant, and the resulting emulsion was injected to 12 week old hen into its left and right pectoralis muscles at a dose of 1 ml for each muscle for initial immunization. 6 weeks after the initial immunization, the hen was given the second immunization in a similar manner. 2 weeks after the second immunization, antibody titer of the anti-chicken coccidiosis antibody in the blood of the hen was measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (Avian Diseases, 44: 379-389, 2000), and the

antibody titer was 30,000 to 120,000 folds. The egg of this hen had an antibody titer of 30,000 to 120,000 folds, and this antibody titer level was maintained for another 4 months. The eggs were gathered, and a whole egg powder comprising an egg antibody was produced by spray drying. The powder produced had an antibody titer of 60,000 folds. When this antibody was evaluated for its cross reactivity with the ~~sporezoit~~ sporozoite and the merozoite by indirect immunofluorescent staining (Avian Diseases, 44: 379-389, 2000), this antibody specifically stained the surface of the ~~sporezoit~~ sporozoite and the merozoite of the Eimeria species (Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria tenella, and Eimeria maxima) confirming that this antibody was a common antibody for these species.